

Enclosure of Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 5, 1874

A YOUNG lady only 23 years of age has achieved a remarkable a success in the Royal Academy. She had painted a picture for the dealer for whom she had up to the present worked, and her friends thought it was worthy of a place in the Academy. The subject was Calling the Roll after an engagement in the Crimea, and, with many defects the work shows genius. The Prince of Wales in his speech at the Royal Academy dinner praised it very highly, and wanted to buy it but it had been already sold for £200 to a Manchester man who did not care to part with it. It has since been re-sold for £1,500. A correspondent says:—

A Patent Piano Player .

Learning to play on the pianoforte is to become a thing of the past! A patent piano player has just been invented by a Frenchman, by means of which, it is said, the veriest novice can perform the most difficult pieces. The instrument is thus described:—It occupies a position in front of the keyboard of the piano, and extends from above it to the floor. Over the keys of the piano are keys corresponding to those beneath them. These are the fingers of the machine, and they have this advantage over the human hand that they have a finger for every note. The top of the machine is about one foot in width, and has in the centre two rollers, which are moved by a crank. These carry the music through, and as it passes the piano plays it. The music is on paper, and the notes are made by cutting holes in squares. As these holes pass a certain point they allow a hammer to pass through, and the stroke of that hammer is communicated to its own key on the piano. Each key has its hammer. It only requires that these holes be cut at proper intervals to strike any number of keys in given series. The machine can be adapted to any instrument with keys.